

Hebrew for the Goyim

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Sons of Noah



Noah curses Canaan, son of Ham. By Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld, circa 1851-60

People of Color:

My Airborne, Ranger husband had just moved us into Army military quarters on post at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina and we had settled in nicely after just a few days. All was going well, I thought, when one day my young daughter Sarah burst into the house crying uncontrollably. I panicked. She broke her arm? Her teeth are knocked out? The dog was hit by a car?

“Mommy, Mommy,” she screamed while holding out her arms. “Look at me.”

“What?” I grabbed her and speed scanned her from head to toe looking for the hurt.

“I don’t have any colors,” she sobbed as she buried her face in my body.

Happy there was no “real” problem, I said, “Of course you have colors, Baby. Mommy has boxes of colors. Here, let me show you.” I began to pull her in the direction of my plentiful art supplies.

“No, no, Mommy. I don’t have any colors

on my arm. I’m *white*. I don’t have any colors.”

Immediately, I sized up the situation. Our new Army neighborhood included several African American children her age and I assumed they had teased her. This was her *first awareness* that people had differences. Quickly, I got a white sheet of paper, held it by her small, tanned arm and said, “Are you really *white*, Sarah?” Then I got out the art supplies, drew several children and let her mix various “colors” to paint different shades of people. Moments later she triumphantly marched back into the yard like General McArthur returning to the Philippines and announced, “Everybody has colors. You can’t paint anyone without colors.”

That was the end of that! Later, with the permission and participation from the neighborhood mothers, I invited all the children to sit at our table and “color” people. Which goes to show — there is no such thing as no-color people. We are *all* “people of color.”

The Things People Say:

In early years I was taught a similar falsehood — but the other way around. I cannot recall who I first heard say, “All black people are cursed,” but am forever grateful I never heard it at home. It grieves me to think it may have been in school or church. Years later in Jerusalem, I asked an orthodox Jewish couple who emigrated from Russia about this issue. Since my faith came through theirs, I wanted to know what he thought. He took down his Hebrew Bible, quickly opened it to Genesis 9 and said, “Here it is. It’s true — because of Ham’s sin, all “Cushim” (referring to Blacks — but equivalent to the “N” word today) are cursed.” Later when I learned Biblical Hebrew I decided to study the passage myself. This is what I found.

The Story of Noah.

Here is the short version. Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives were saved



from the universal Flood. *Noah* (נח) combines *nun* (נ — receptive, individual man) and *chet* (ח — life), a very apt title for life that has been tossed, turned and tested in a world of water. The three sons were:

(1) **Shem** (שם — *name* or *writer*) is one who writes, names things, or is named. *Shin* (ש) is the symbol for *fire*, for the “shhh” sound of reeds in the Nile. Add *alef* (א) — the word becomes *fire* (שא). God is called a “consuming fire.” *Shem* (שם) contains the “general idea of a thing, upright, straight, a monument, a name, a sign, a place...” and the verb form *shum* (שום) expresses the “action of naming, noting, or instituting.”¹ *Vov* (ו) converts the idea into reality or action. *Mem* (מ) at the end makes it universal. God is called HaShem. Rather than say Yahweh, observant Jews refer to God as *HaShem* (ה-שם), which could translate *The Name*, *Yahweh* is *The Name*, *Heb* (Yahweh) is *The Fire (universal)*, or *He (Heb)* is *The Name*.

(2) **Ham** (חם — life *chet* ח, universal *mem* מ). *Ham* חם is *tan/brown* — a warm (98.7 degrees) human.

(3) **Japheth** (יפת) *manifest* (י) *complete* (tov-ת) being who *speaks* (pey-פ-mouth-abode), fair, lovely. Combine these three and you have an upright, warm, earth colored, named person, who speaks.

After the Flood.

Noah became a “husbandman,” “*man* (איש) of the *earth* (ארמה),” that is to say, a *farmer*. Among other things, he planted grape vines, eventually made wine and drank it. Lots of it. Perhaps it was a habit, but one day he passed out drunk in his tent and we read in the Bible that Ham “*saw the nakedness*” (ראת ערבת) of his father (אביו).

To “*see or uncover nakedness*” is an ancient Biblical term. In Leviticus (chapter 18) this phrase is *clearly a cultural, well known way of describing sexual relations*. Moses wrote that it is illegal to “*see the nakedness*” (ראת ערבת) of one’s father, mother, step-mother, sister, step sister, grandchild, aunt, uncle, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, sister-in-law, a woman and her daughter, a woman during menses. He’s not talking here about peeking — but having sex with close relatives. It is totally taboo.

Aym (ע) and *resh* (ר) form a unique syllable, the opposite of *light* (or — אר). *Er* (ער) speaks of the physical (ע), of *low passions, vehement impulses, rage*. Add *bet* (ב) and it points inward. It speaks of stirring, excited *rage*, being stripped naked, a desert, firey

passion.² No doubt Ham *raped* his father while he was sot drunk. How would we know that? Because only when Noah later **awoke** did he *know* (ידע *yada*) what his son had *done* (עשה) to him. How did he know it was Ham? Maybe the father just knew this son — had seen other violent acts this son had committed. He would not have *known* anything if Ham had merely glanced or even stared at him in the tent.

Who, then, was cursed?

Genesis 9:25 says “And Noah said, ‘*Cursed* (ארר) is **Canaan** (כנען), a servant of servants he will be to *his brothers** (אחיו),” and a servant to Japheth and Shem’s line. A racist explanation is that all blacks will serve whites. This is far from what the Biblical passage says.

• *Arur* (ארר *curse*) combines *alef* (א power) and *resh* (ר movement). It suggests a strong, vigorous idea. Doubled letters often refer to excess, to dissipation. *Arur* (ארר) is intense, speaking of excessive force, developing ideas of cursing, of malediction.³ In other words, the violent is cursed with violence.

• Ham had four sons, **Cush* (כוש Ethiopia), *Mizraim* (מצרים Egypt), *Phut* (פוט Libya) and **Canaan** (כנען). Ethiopia was not cursed. *Mizraim*, a plural name given to the later unified land of Southern (Nubia) and Northern Egypt, was not cursed. Libya was not cursed. Not even Ham was cursed.

• *Only Canaan*, Ham’s fourth son, was cursed. As an aside, how did Noah know the names of the future grandchildren if they were not already born? Maybe part of the story is untold. *Canaan* (כנען) must have been a chip off the old block of his violent dad. His name could read — *according to* (caf כ) *son* (nun נ) of the *physical impulse, flesh* (ע) taken to extreme (ען). *Ineb* (ענה) means to *force, torture, rape, violate*. The ancient Canaanites were known for religious debauchery and human sacrifice, serpent cults and so-called “sacred” prostitution. “The sordid depths of degradation to which the erotic aspects of Canaanite cults led can scarcely be imagined.”⁴

• Verse 18 lists families of Canaan and tells us they were *spread abroad*. *Many* descendents are listed. Does anyone know any Jebusites, Amorites, Girgasites, Hivites, Arkites, Sinits, Arvadites, Zemarites or Hemathites? *Violent* Sodom and Gomorrah, long gone, were descendents.

• Many in Shem’s line *were* and *are* dark

skinned. Genetic studies of “an ethnic group of black Africans, numbering perhaps 50,000 scattered *throughout southern Africa*, with a particular concentration south of the Limpopo River” showed the *majority* of the men had Y-chromosome links to the “**Cohen** Modal Haplotype —the marker chromosome for the Jewish priesthood.”⁵

• Look at the art of Egypt — from Pharaohs to slaves, all were widely varied in color.

• We know from the Bible that Moses married a Cushite (dark skinned Ethiopian). His sister Miriam was cursed with leprosy until Moses interceded for her, but was barren her entire life. Why? She complained about Moses marrying an Ethiopian. Solomon had many wives — at least one was black according to Song of Solomon. People may choose similar skinned people for mates or neighbors, but with God, the shade of skin color has nothing whatsoever to do with anything.

Now is the time for all good people to come to their senses — to put aside bias relating to skin color. If physical evidence isn’t enough, listen to these words freely translated from Galatians (Chapter 3).

“*People of faith* are the children of Abraham...the Scriptures knew ahead of time that the goyim (*all* nations) would be justified through *faith*...God preached the gospel to Abraham (Abraham knew), saying, ‘*All* nations (גויים goyim) will be *blessed in you*.’ Jesus (ישועה Salvation) Christ (משיח Messiah/Anointed) redeemed us from the **curse** (all curses, included Canaan’s)...you are all children of God by *faith*...in Jesus there is *no such thing* as Jew or Greek, bond or free, male or female, colored or non-colored. You are all One...if you belong to Jesus, you are Abraham’s seed.” Just like any good artist, God (**The Artist**) made his creations with many colors. God is concerned about the inside, not the outside. In fact, man *does* look on the outside but “God looks on the heart...The kingdom of God is on the *inside*.” And know this — the future belongs to those who understand these ancient promises and blessings. J✡C

1. Olivet, F., *The Hebraic Tongue Restored*, p. 177.

2. *Ibid*, p. 421.

3. *Ibid*, p. 299.

4. Unger, Merrill, *Unger’s Bible Handbook*, p. 51.

5. Olson, Steve, *Mapping Human History*, p. 113.